

لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله

*There is none worthy of Worship but Allah,
Muhammad is His Prophet*

The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam

Founder—

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
(The promised Messiah and Mahdi)

The present head—

Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad
(The second successor of the promised Messiah)

Center—Qadian, Punjab, India

Su THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT
IN ISLAM
2141 LEROY PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.



Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
The Promised Messiah and Mahdi
1835-1908

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اِذَا الدِّينِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْاِسْلَامُ

What is Islam?

Islam is the religion which was founded by the Holy Prophet Muhammad. It is wrongly called Mohammadanism.

1. Islam means:

- (1) Peace, and
- (2) Resignation.

The significance of the name Islam is the attainment of a life of perfect peace, and eternal happiness through complete surrender to the Will of God.

2. Absolute and uncompromising belief in One God is the central teaching of Islam. "Laa-Ilaaha Illallah Muhammadur-Rasululla." *"There is none worthy of worship but One and the Only God and Muhammad is His prophet."* This is the most important doctrine of Islam. Furthermore, Islam helps us to establish a permanent relationship with God and to realize Him during our earthly life as our Helper in all our affairs and undertakings.

3. Islam requires belief in all the prophets and spiritual guides including Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Kirshna, Buddha, Confucius and Zoroaster. Islam represents the completion of the mission of *all* the prophets from the earliest dawn of history: that in fact all the prophets of God came with one and the same mission. *Thus Islam establishes peace between all religions.*

4. The Quran, the Moslem Scripture — the word of God was revealed to the Master-prophet Muhammad over thirteen hundred years ago and has been preserved intact without the slightest change. There

are numberless Moslems who know the entire Book by heart. It is an inexhaustible mine of spiritual truths which satisfies the needs of all people of all countries.

5. The establishment of true democracy and universal brotherhood without discrimination of caste, creed, color or country is the unique and unrivalled distinction of Islam. Islam has not only propounded but fulfilled and realized the splendid principles of democracy into the life and action of human society.

6. Following are a few of the distinctive features of Islam.

- (a) Liberation of women by establishing the equality of both sexes, safe-guarding their rights and liberties and raising their status.
- (b) Absolute veto on all intoxicants.
- (c) Solution of economic problems.
- (d) The furnishing of humanity with the noblest practical ethics.
- (e) The promotion of science and education.

7. Following are some of the obligatory duties of Islam:

- (a) Five daily prayers.
- (b) Fasting in the month of Ramadhan.
- (c) Fixed almsgiving and charity
- (d) Pilgrimage once in one's lifetime, provided circumstances allow.

8. According to Islam life after death is the continuation of life on earth. Heaven and Hell begin right from here. Heaven is eternal and everlasting while Hell is only temporary. Hell is as a hospital treatment for the human soul which, as soon as it is cured, goes to Heaven. Heaven is the attainment of a life of everlasting progress and complete joy and happiness through union with God and by the development of the fine spiritual qualities and the unlimited capacities that have been implanted in man.

The Ahmadiyya Movement

The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam was founded in 1890 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, Punjab, India under an express divine command. He claimed to be the Mahdi whose advent was foretold by the Holy Prophet Muhammad and the Messiah whose advent had been foretold in the Bible and in the Moslem Scriptures. He was the promised teacher concerning whose appearance in the last age almost all the prophets joined hands in prophesying. The revelation which he received showed that God appointed him for the regeneration of mankind, as the Mahdi and the Promised Messiah. In fact, in him was fulfilled the promise made by all the prophets of the past.

Ahmadiyyat (which comprises all the teachings and doctrines of the Ahmadiyya movement) is the Islam which was revealed to the world over thirteen hundred years ago through the Holy Prophet Muhammad and the dispensation which is contained in the Holy Quran. During the course of centuries, however, it had been subjected to innovations and misinterpretations; and on the other hand, many of its aspects had been entirely neglected and consequently had remained unexplored. The Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement removed all innovations and misinterpretations and discovered and published the wealth of spiritual truths which lay hidden in the words of the Holy Quran, but to which people had been unable to obtain access. In short, Ahmadiyyat is the true Islam which the Promised Messiah and Mahdi presented to the world in its pure and original form. *Ahmadiyyat and Islam are identically the same thing. Hazrat Ahmad with all the glory that God gave him, was only a servant and disciple of the great Prophet Muhammad.* Ahmadiyyat is based wholly on the Holy Quran and the Law of Islam. It has made known to the world many new truths relating to the special conditions and needs of the present age. These truths were presented by the Promised Messiah who has enriched the intellectual and spiritual world by revealing many spiritual sciences. Again, Ahmadiyyat is Islam in its widest sense, that is the Islam which was the religion of all the prophets from the earliest dawn of history to the present day.

The object of the foundation of the Ahmadiyya movement and the advent of Hazrat Ahmad, the Promised Messiah can best be presented in his own words. He says:

"The task for which God has appointed me is that I should, by removing the obstacles which have been set up between man and his maker, reestablish in the hearts of men, love and devotion toward God, and by making manifest the Truth, put an end to all religious wars and strife and thus lay the foundation of abiding peace; and should discover to the world the spiritual truths which it has lost sight of and demonstrate to the world the true spiritual life which has been displaced by material desire and should in my own life manifest those divine powers with which man is endowed and which can be manifested only through prayer, righteousness and devotion, and above all that I should permanently reestablish that bright and unadulterated unity of God which is free from every kind of association of partners with Him and which had entirely disappeared from the hearts of mankind."

Again he says that he has been sent to attract mankind:

"To the truth in all things relating to belief, morals, knowledge, and conduct in such a manner that men should gain strength in all these matters."

"Also I have been sent to give the world a firmer faith and demonstrate to the world the existence of God, for faith has withered and the life to come has become a mere fable and the conduct of mankind shows that their whole trust is placed in this world and in things material."

Again he says:

"God has ordained that human spirits living in different parts of the globe, in Europe or in Asia, such of them as are possessed of righteous inclinations, should be drawn toward the One God and collected around One Faith. This being the purpose of my advent into the world, it behooves my followers to exert themselves for its realization, always, however, through humility, good deeds and prayers."

The Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement explained that the object of man's life is unbounded and unlimited advancement. Man is not born with shackles which he cannot break, and God never shuts to him the gates of liberty and progress.

From all this it would appear that his mission was to preach unity of God; that man should so regulate his life in conformity with the doctrine as to lead him to moral and spiritual perfection; that is to say, "Man should love no other thing or being with a love greater than that which he entertains for God, and should place his whole trust in and reliance upon God and should not regard any thing or being as having

any control over his affairs. A person who believes in the unity of God in this sense and acts upon such belief is sure to experience a moral revolution. All weaknesses in the world proceed from two causes: either because a man loves an object with such intense love that he regards his existence as useless without it, or because he regards an object so injurious and hateful that he imagines his salvation depends upon the destruction of this object. This unreasonable excess of love or hate leads man to do things that are incompatible with righteousness and moral integrity. But a person whose faith in the unity of God is perfect, prefers not the love of any other object or person to his love for God and hates nothing so intensely as being led away from Him. To such person sin becomes an impossibility. Such a person wholly resigns himself unto God and finds his complete satisfaction and highest bliss in union with Him. It is to teach practically such unity of God that Hazrat Ahmad had been sent by Him."

To establish virtue and righteousness, to restore to the hearts of mankind true faith and devotion, to open the gates of spiritual knowledge, to find a solution for moral, intellectual, social and economic problems, to abolish war and disorder and bring about the universal peace and brotherhood and thus to demonstrate to the world the glory of God and to establish His kingdom upon earth, are the high and noble objects of the Promised Messiah's advent.

A truly splendid mission and a glorious prospect! The same was the mission of all the prophets of the past. They came with the same high and noble Truth.

"Truth forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne;
Yet the scaffold sways the future;
And behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God, within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own."

Like all the divine messengers of the past and those who served the cause of universal truth and humanity, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement had to pass through the fiery ordeal of opposition and the persecution. People professing different religions and

creeds united in their efforts to disgrace and harass him and his followers and to put an end to his cause. A number of the devoted followers of this World Teacher were stoned to death simply because they adopted his teachings. His followers were subjected to hardships of all descriptions for the simple reason that they accepted him as their spiritual guide. But truth cannot be suppressed long. The bitterer the fire of persecution, the brighter does the Truth glow. So it happened in this case.

In spite of the stubborn opposition which the Movement had to encounter in the promulgation of truth, it is making progress by leaps and bounds.

It is a new movement, only about fifty years old and yet has spread to the uttermost corners of the globe. The movement maintains regular missions in many parts of the world including England, North and South America, various parts of Africa, Italy, Palestine, Dutch East Indies, Straights Settlement, China, Japan and Mauritius. It produces literature on an extensive scale and more than a dozen magazines and newspapers, published in diverse languages radiate from its various centers in the different parts of the world. The activities of the far-flung movement are daily being intensified for the worldwide expansion of Islam.

A task of incalculable value which the Holy Founder of the movement performed was to put an end to all religious strife and conflict. In order to accomplish this high purpose, he laid special emphasis on the teaching of the Holy Quran which states that, in all countries and in all ages, divine teachers, the spiritual reformers and prophets appeared for the guidance of mankind. He definitely stressed the basic and fundamental unity of all religions. He made it increasingly clear that whatever differences exist among the votaries of the various faiths are due to the abuse of the universal truth which was the *one* mission of the founders of *all* religions. These differences are man-made and human corruptions. The Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement instilled into his followers a supreme and an enlightened tolerance toward other faiths by inculcating not only respect for but faith

and belief in all the prophets of God. Thus he laid solid foundation for abiding religious peace.

In order to bring about religious peace Hazart Ahmad, made certain concrete propositions, which are noted below:

1. The founders and the leaders of the different religions must not be referred to in a manner calculated to wound the feelings of their followers.

2. In the propagation of their faiths, the missionaries of each religion must confine themselves to the expounding of the merits, beauties and excellences of their religions without making any attack upon other religions. Because to find fault with other religions does by no means prove the truth or superiority of one's own.

3. The followers of a religion must not ascribe to their religion a doctrine or a teaching which is not directly deducible from their scriptures. Both the doctrine and its proof must be cited from the revealed book of the religion.

4. The advocates of different religions must be required not to confine themselves merely to an abstract explanation of the teachings of their religion, but to illustrate in practice the results which can be obtained by acting upon those teachings, so that people might be able to judge whether those teachings do or do not lead to the desired result.

The greatest single work accomplished by this World-Teacher is that he implanted a spirit of righteousness, moral integrity, spiritual discernment and understanding and indwelling love of God in the hearts of those who entered into his fold. In fact, he worked a moral revolution among his followers. His teachings have produced such sanctifying and lasting effect upon the lives of his adherents that wherever there is an appreciable number of the members of this great movement, although they do not differ from others in external appearance, yet they are easily recognized by virtue of their excellent moral character, spiritual superiority, sharp intellect and extraordinary aptitude for knowledge. A large number of those who embraced the teachings of Hazart Ahmad, the promised Messiah and have followed them in letter and in spirit have been blessed with direct communion with God.

The Future of the Ahmadiyya Movement

Let the whole world bear witness that I prophecy in the name of the Lord of the earth and the heaven that He will spread my followers in all countries and make them overcome every other people by reasons and arguments. The days are approaching, nay, are very near when the religion (Islam) preached by me will be the only religion that will be regarded with honor upon the face of the earth. The Almighty God will bless this religion and this system in a wonderful manner, and will destroy every one who thinks of destroying it. The victory which it will gain will be the lasting victory, and its supremacy will continue to the end of days.

(Hazrat Ahmad)

The greater portion of the people of Europe will become Moslems and will believe in Hazrat Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi.

All other religions will give place to Islam and Ahmadiyyat, and will in the end almost cease to exist. The earth shall be inherited by Hazrat Ahmad's followers and the followers of other religions shall be few in number and shall occupy humble positions.

Monarchs and princes shall believe in Hazrat Ahmad and shall seek blessings from his clothes.

The seed of Ahmadiyyat or true Islam which has been sown in the earth shall grow little by little, until, one day, according to the holy words of God, it becomes a mighty tree and all those who are hungry and thirsty for truth shall take rest under its shade. The love of un-reality shall be wiped out of the hearts of men as though it is dead. And the spirit of truth will be infused into every breast. On that day, all the prophecies of the scriptures shall be fulfilled in which it is written that like the ocean the earth will be filled with truth. But as is the Divine Custom, all this will happen slowly. It is not necessary for this gradual progress that the Promised Messiah be alive. It is enough that God will be living. Such is the eternal law of God which

cannot be changed. The seed which the Promised Messiah has sown shall grow ultimately, not all at once but by a gradual process, and shall draw the hearts of men toward it so much so that it shall spread all over the world like a Circle.

(Hazrat Ahmad)



The Ahmadiyya Movement has missions throughout the world. Some of them are listed below:

THE LONDON
MOSQUE,

63 Melrose Road,
Southfields,
London, S. W. 18,
England.

THE AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT IN ISLAM
Sufi M. R. Bengalee, M. A.,
220 So. State St.,
Chicago 4, Illinois,
U. S. America.

THE NIGERIAN BRANCH OF
THE SADAR ANJUMAN
AHMADIYYAH

P. O. Box 418,
Lagos (S. Nigeria)
B. W. Africa.

THE AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT,
Gold Coast, West Africa,
P. O. Box 39,
Salt Pond.

THE AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT,
P. O. Box 11,

Bo, Sierra Leone,
West Africa.

THE AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT,

P. O. Box 554, Nairobi,
Kenya Colony,
(B. E. Africa).

THE AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT,

Mount Karmel,
Haifa (Palestine).

M. RAMZAN ALI, H. A.

Corrales 2668
Buenos Aires,
Argentine.

THE AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT,

Rose Hill, Mauritius.

THE AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT,

Box No. 305, G. P. O.
Perth, W. Australia.

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